

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 10, 12 - 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,009, 408 to Buchanan. Applicants traverse this rejection based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection, and that they withdraw it.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite “notifying said first user automatically regarding at least one of an expense book incompleteness, an approval, and a rejection in response to said review.” Buchanan does not teach or suggest this added claim element. Buchanan does disclose maintaining a separate traveler category rule set for each customer. Each rule set may contain a set of rules applicable to the various categories of customers. For example, a new recruit may receive a \$120.00 per diem allowance that is accessible only on a day to day basis, whereas a marketing representative receives a \$250.00 per diem allowance. [Col. 6, Line 50 – 65]. However, Buchanan does not teach or suggest “notifying said first user automatically regarding at least one of an expense book incompleteness, an approval, and a rejection in response to said review.” For example, Buchanan does not teach or suggest creating an expense book, routing the expense book to a second user for review, and then notifying the first user automatically regarding an incomplete expense book, approved expense book, or a rejected expense book, in response to the review by the second user. Therefore, Claim 10, and the associated dependent claims 12 – 18 are believed allowable in light of Buchanan.

Applicants reserve the right to interpret the claims in light of the disclosure provided in the specification. In addition, Applicants make no concessions with regard to the Examiner’s presumption of admitted prior art. Applicants have responded appropriately to the rejections provided by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 18 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable in light of U.S. Patent No 6,009, 408 to Buchanan. Claim 18 has been withdrawn. Portions of the limitations of Claim 18 have been

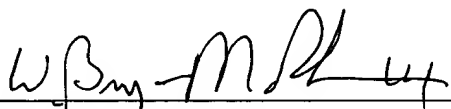
incorporated into Claim 1. The rejection as applied to Claim 10, as amended, is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, Buchanan does not teach or suggest “notifying said first user automatically regarding at least one of an expense book incompleteness, an approval, and a rejection in response to said review.” Therefore, Claim 10, as amended, and the associated dependent claims 12 – 18, are believed allowable in view of Buchanan.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection and/or non-compliance have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that they withdraw them. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if they believe that an interview might be useful for any reason. In the event that the Examiner is unpersuaded by Applicant's arguments, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the Amendment for purposes of Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Bryan McPherson III", is written over a horizontal line.

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